

They have developed partnerships with Memorial North Park Hospital, Dallas Bay Volunteer Fire Department, Angel Food Ministries, Ganns Middle Valley Elementary School, Smokey Mountain Children's Home, Church of God Chaplains Commission, Church of God World Missions, Operation Christmas Child, and various other organizations. In addition, the church hosts a grief support group through Legacy Funeral Services and serves as a voting precinct for the Hamilton County Election Commission. They soon hope to host a community meeting to address the methamphetamine crisis our region is currently battling.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in thanking the congregation of Middle Valley Church of God and Pastor Mitch McClure for 60 years of commitment to their faith and service to the local community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TASK
FORCE ON MENTORING OF MONT-
GOMERY COUNTY ON THE OCCA-
SION OF ITS 15TH ANNUAL CON-
FERENCE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and express my appreciation for the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County, Maryland. The Task Force is a community-based, non-profit organization that provides crucial services such as mentor training, volunteer mentor recruitment, and organizational and technical support to community organizations and institutions that work to develop mentoring programs.

For over 15 years the Task Force has been a pillar of support for at-risk youth in Montgomery County. It has joined us in the battle against gang-related violence through its day-to-day efforts and its upcoming annual conference entitled "Challenging the Gang Lifestyle—Strategies for Prevention." The conference will be held on the Rockville Campus of Johns Hopkins University on October 12, 2006.

Thanks to the tireless and steadfast efforts of the Task Force on Mentoring, many of Montgomery County's children and adolescents have been given a real opportunity to become positive, active, and socially conscious citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of its fifteenth annual conference, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM
SKIVINGTON, SR., AND WILLIAM
SKIVINGTON, JR.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor both William Skivington, Sr., and William Skivington, Jr., for their service in the United States Armed Forces. William, Sr., and

William, Jr., are being honored today at Nellis Air Force Base as part of the 2006 POW/MIA National Recognition Day ceremonies.

Private First Class William Skivington, Jr., or "Skip" as most referred to him, disappeared on Mother's Day in 1968 during a ground battle near the Laotian border. Thirty-eight years after being declared missing-in-action, his remains have finally been returned to his family. A graduate of Western High School, William, Jr., was presumed killed or captured after his observation post at Kham Duc was overrun by a brigade of North Vietnamese soldiers and Viet Cong. For his bravery and service William, Jr., was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and a number of medals from the Government of Vietnam, he will be laid to rest with his fellow American heroes at Arlington National Cemetery.

William, Jr., learned the value and honor of service from his father, William, Sr., who served our country with bravery and nobility in the European Theater during World War II. For his valor, William, Sr., was highly also decorated. I applaud Bill not only for his service to this country, but also for his support for all prisoners of war and missing in action and their families, and his dedication to his son, William, Jr. He is currently raising money to preserve an olive tree, The Freedom Tree, which was planted in 1972 and dedicated to his son, and all POW/MIA.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor William Skivington, Sr., and William Skivington, Jr. Their service in our Nation's armed services is admirable and shows that they are both true patriots and American heroes.

HONORING NATIONAL
GRANDPARENTS DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Grandparents Day. Designated as the first Sunday following Labor Day of every year, Grandparents Day began in 1979 by a proclamation from President Jimmy Carter. Unfortunately the vital work of grandparents frequently goes unrecognized and underappreciated. Not only do grandparents provide ties to our past, they often times provide care to the Nation's children.

Grandparents make up 5.7 million households living with over 6.1 million children, evidence that many of these grandparents are often times caring for more than one child. It is important to note that 42 percent of grandparent caregivers are the sole providers for the most basic needs of one or more of the children in their custody. Alarming, 35.8 percent of grandchildren under the age of 18 live in homes with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or other form of public assistance, and 460,000 of these grandparent led households fall below the poverty line.

Chicago, alone, is the home to three of the top ten congressional districts for children living in the homes of grandparents or other relatives. In my congressional district there are 23,397 grandparents living with grandchildren and over ten thousand grandparents who are responsible for their grandchildren's needs; indeed the 7th District of Illinois, my congres-

sional district, has the highest percentage of children living in kinship care in the entire Nation. Not only does my district have the highest incidence of grandparent-headed households in the Nation, it also has a disproportionate number of African American grandparent caregivers, around 82 percent of all grandparent-headed households. It is an unfortunate fact that the problem of grandparent-headed households disproportionately affects African-American grandparents who serve as kinship care providers at higher rates than other racial/ethnic groups; a fact that federal policies need to understand and address.

B.C. Forbes said, "Upon our children—how they are taught—rests the fate—or fortune—of tomorrow's world." The fate of our children and their future lies with the millions of grandparents who tirelessly raise their grandchildren. Grandparent-headed households are an unrelenting force on our Nation's children and deserve our gratitude and support.

FOURTEENTH DALAI LAMA CON-
GRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I fully support this legislation to bestow the Congressional Gold Medal upon Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama. His Holiness is a spiritual beacon for thousands, and he has traveled the world to develop common ground among different faiths. He stands for and embodies peace and harmony.

I also honor the Dalai Lama for his continuing work to expand freedoms for the Tibetan people. Under Chinese rule, the human rights situation in Tibet is reprehensible—religious and political freedoms are severely curtailed and thousands of Tibetans have died. Practicing compassion and non-violence, the Dalai Lama has met with world leaders and has attempted to engage the Chinese government to reach a solution that will give freedom to his people. Regrettably, the Chinese government has been stubborn in its resistance, but I hope they will soon have a change of mind and heart about the situation in Tibet.

As a spiritual force and as a head of state, the Dalai Lama shows us all the meaning of peace and compassion. He deserves this honor, and I thank the leadership for bringing the bill before us.

"ART ON LABELS" CONTEST
WINNERS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two outstanding young students who live and go to school in my district in Houston, Texas. Alejandra Garcia, 10, of Crockett Elementary School and Alina Arevalo, 8, of Sherman Elementary School recently won a national art competition in support of afterschool programs called the